National Literacy Mission

620. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the obejctive of the National Literacy Mission;

(b) number of persons, male and female, rural and urban in the age group of 15—35, educated under NLM in the country and Rajasthan till date;

(c) what literacy levels have been achieved thereof in the country and Rajasthan, male and female, rural and urban; and

(d) what is the evaluation rate of success of NLM for the country as a whole, and Rajasthan in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The objective of the National Literacy Mission (NLM) is to impart functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15—35 age group.

(b) The number of persons made literate in the 15035 age group under NLM in the country as a whole and Rajasthan so far is given below:—

(in Lakh)

	Male	Female	Total
India	497.09	745.64	1242.73
Rajasthan	30.10	57.69	87.79

The separate break up of rural and urban persons made literate is not maintained.

(c) According to 2001 Census, the literacy rate for the country and Rajasthan is given below:—

India			Rajasthan		
Total	—	64.84%	Total	—	60.41%
Male	—	75.26%	Male	—	75.70%
Female	—	53.67%	Female	—	43.85%
Urban	—	79.92%	Urban	—	76.20%
Rural	—	58.74%	Rural	—	55.34%

(d) Though no evaluation of the NLM as a whole has been conducted, an expert group was set up in 1993 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Arun Ghosh which undertook the evaluation of literacy campaigns in India. The expert group noted that a success rate of 55—60% among identified non-literates should be considered to be a good success rate and Total Literacy Campaigns (TLC) have led overwhelming impact on women, greater demand for primary school education and a positive impact on caste and communal relations. One of the recommendations of the expert group was for more stringent evaluation procedure. Accordingly, the literacy programmes are evaluated by external evaluation agencies. In the process of evaluation, the reading, writing and numerical skills of the person are tested. For being declared literate, a person should have a minimum of 70% in aggregate.

Rajasthan registered the highest decadal increase in literacy rate of 21.86% during 1991 and 2001. The Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) and Post Literacy Programme (PLP) have been evaluated by external evaluating agency in all the 32 districts of Rajasthan. As per the information received from State Government, achievement was less than 50% in 23 districts and more than 50% in 9 districts for TLC as per NLM norms. In respect of PLP, achievement was less than 50% in 5 districts and more than 50% in 27 districts. First external evaluation of Continuing Education Programme (CEP) has been conducted in five districts *viz.*, Ajmer, Bundi, Banswara, Bharatpur and Kota. Ajmer was the second district of the country to be evaluated. Evaluation report shows commendable achievement under CEP specially in formation of self help groups, income generation activities, convergence with various development departments, conducting equivalency programme in collaboration with National Institute of Open Schooling etc. Subsequently, as per revised guidelines, scores are being awarded to the districts by evaluation agencies. The achievement in respect of Bundi, Banswara, Bharatpur and Kota were 74.20%, 74.40%, 63.80% and 73.20% respectively.

Strengthening secondary education in Muslim-dominated areas

621. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a plan to strengthen secondary education in Muslim-dominated areas;